Rise in population in border areas of West Bengal and Bibar

744. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of villages, (cities and towns located in border areas of West Bengal and Bihar where according to the Census of 1971 and 1981 the population has increased (i) 40 to 99 per cent; and (ii) 100 per cent; and

(b) what aire the reasons for the rise in population and necessary steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME, AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Statement containing! th|e required information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix CXLI, Annexure No. 23].

(b) The increase in population in these areas may be the result of combined effect of the three factors of population growth, namely Fertility, Mortality and Migration. It is difficult to attribute the growth of population to any single factor.

Modernisation and renovation of textile mills

745. SHRI MATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHT;

SHRI KALPNATH RAI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme under Government's consideration for modernisation and renovation of the textile mills;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether foreign agencies are being involved in the above scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) The Textile Modernisation Fund Scheme, operated by the Industrial Development Bank of India, has come into operation from 1st August, 1986 for finance the modernisation needs of the cotton textile mills.

(b) About 25 per cent (Rs. 190 crores) of the Fund will be utilised for providing modernisation assistance to healthy units and the bulk cf it (Rs. 560 crores) would be provided to weak but viable units. A part of the Fund, aproximately to the extent of Rs. 100 croVes has been earmarked for providing special loans in the case of weak but viable units as a major part (upto 80 per cent) of the promo--* ter's contribution.

(c) No, Sir.

Increase in Thar desert area

749. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the area of the Thar desert in Rajasthan has increased in recent years;

(b) if so, what are the reasons^ therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken to arrest the widening of the desert area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) The results of the integrated research conducted by the Central . Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodh-pulr and the analysis of satellite imageries do not support the view that Thar desert continues to grow. How- ever, the resources within the desert are showing indication of deterioration due to over-exploitation and oppor-^' tunistic land-use tendencies, on account of increase in human and animal population in the desertic regions.

(c) Desertification control measures are being taken by a number of

departments, the most important of which is the Desert Development Programme (DDP), a central sector scheme of the Department of Rural Development.

Report of the Kudal Commission

747. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 469 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th January, 1985 and state:

(a) whether the study of the several reports submitted by the Kudal Com mission has since been completed by Government;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether the recommendations made by Kudal Commission have since been implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRX OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The Kudal Commission of Inquiry has submitted six interim reports and a final report. The 1st Report and 2nd & 3rd reports alongwth 'Action Taken Memorandum' were placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 4-12-85 and 7-5-8161 respectively. Thfe remaining reports are being studied by the Gov ernment.

Setting up of Development Boards in Maharashtra

748. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 433 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th January, 1985 and state:

(a) whther any final decision has since been taken to set up Development Boards for Vidharbha, Mara-thwada and for the rest of Maharashtra; and

(b) if not, what a're the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI pANIGRAHI): (a) and (b) The matter is still being pursued with the Government of Maharashtra.

Removal of Shri Venkateswaran, Former Foreign Secretary

749. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's atten tion has been drawn to a news report which appeared in the Indian Express of the 22nd February, 1987 to the effect that in an extraordinary session, members of the Indian Foreign Ser vice Association had expressed their resentment over the manner in which the removal of Shri Venkateswaran, former Foreign Secretary, was announced during Prime Minister's Press Conference;

(ib) whether he had received the resolution;

(c) if so, the contents thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) whether the se'rvice officers felt demoralised?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (3HRI NARAYAN DATT TTWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some members of the IFS Association met the External Affairs Minister on January 22 and handed over to him a copy of the resolution passed by the Association.

(c) The resolution passed by the IFS Association was treated by that body as an internal matter and is not